This document was signed electronically on March 14, 2017, which may be different from its entry on the record.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

**Dated: March 14, 2017** 



ALAN M. KOSCHIK U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

In re:

Howard Seeden and Michelle D. Seeden.

Case No. 16-52228 (AMK)

Chapter 7

Judge Alan M. Koschik

Debtors.

# JOINT STIPULATION AND ORDER DIRECTING DEBTORS' COUNSEL TO REFUND LEGAL FEES

Now comes Tiiara N. A. Patton, trial attorney for Daniel M. McDermott, the United States Trustee for Region 9 ("<u>United States Trustee</u>"), and Warner Mendenhall ("<u>Attorney Mendenhall</u>"), counsel for Howard Seeden and Michelle D. Seeden (collectively, the "<u>Debtors</u>") and in support of this stipulation ("<u>Stipulation</u>") the parties state the following:

#### **Recitals**

- A. On September 12, 2016 (the "<u>Petition Date</u>"), the Debtors filed their joint voluntary chapter 7 petition in the above-captioned case and their schedules (the "<u>Schedules</u>") and statement of financial affairs (the "<u>SOFA</u>").
- B. The Debtors' Schedules provided that the Debtors' monthly gross income is \$3,362.67 (Docket No. 1). *See* Docket No. 1. However, the Debtors' means test provided that the Debtors' monthly gross income is \$3,125. *Id.* After reviewing the Debtors' pay advices, it appears that the Debtors' monthly gross income is actually \$5,518. *See* Docket No. 4. The Debtors' testified that they were unclear regarding how their income was calculated on the means test.
- C. As a result of the foregoing, the United States Trustee filed the *Motion of United States Trustee for an Entry of an Order Pursuant to Rules 1017(e)(1) and 4004(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure Extending the Time to File a Motion to Dismiss or File a Complaint Objecting to Discharge*, which provided the United States Trustee with additional time to investigate whether the Debtors' case is appropriate for a motion to dismiss in accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 707(b) or a complaint objecting to discharge. *See* Docket No. 15. In response to the United States Trustee's request, the Debtors provided the United States Trustee with documentation regarding the Debtors' income and the Legal Fees.
- D. On March 1, 2016, the Debtors amended their Schedules, including Schedule I: Your Income. *See* Docket No. 26. According to the Debtors' amended *Schedule I: Your Income* provides that the Debtors' monthly gross income is \$5,670. *Id*.
- E. By consenting to this Stipulation and Order, Attorney Mendenhall makes no admissions of any fact except those contained in the Recitals.

# NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto hereby stipulate and agree that:

- 1. Attorney Mendenhall shall refund to the Debtors Five-Hundred and Thirty-Two Dollars (\$532.00) of the legal fees the Debtors paid to him and his firm within fourteen (14) days from the date of entry of this Stipulation.
- 2. Attorney Mendenhall shall file with the Court a certification of payment to the Debtors along with substantiating documentation within fourteen (14) days from the date of entry of this Stipulation.

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## DANIEL M. MCDERMOTT UNITED STATES TRUSTEE, REGION 9

By: /s/ Tiiara N. A. Patton

Tiiara N. A. Patton (0081912)

Trial Attorney

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THE LAW OFFICES OF WARNER MENDENHALL

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Akron, Ohio 44304

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Counsel for the Debtors

### **Certificate of Service**

The Clerk hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing Order was served upon the following parties in the manner indicated:

Via the Court's Electronic Case Filing System on these entities and individuals who are listed on the Court's Electronic Mail Notice List:

- Warner Mendenhall warnermendenhall@gmail.com
- Dynele L. Schinker-Kuharich ecf-filings@schinker-kuharich.com, dschinker-kuharich@ecf.epiqsystems.com;dls@trustesolutions.net
- United States Trustee (Registered address)@usdoj.gov

Via Regular United States Mail, postage pre-paid:

Recovery Management Systems Corporation 25 SE 2nd Avenue Suite 1120 Miami, FL 33131-1605